

or of the embryos of the Nudibranchs. These two shells are united at their apertures by means of a very thin membrane. They have the same relations to each other and the same relative signification as the nauplian cuticle of the embryos of the Cirripedes and the carapace of the *Archizoöa* enclosed under that cuticle. I do not think that the second shell is the origin of the calcareous shell of the adult *Lamellaria*. I have been unable to ascertain this fact by direct observation; for the nautiloid embryos, after having swum some days in the aquariums, die without undergoing any other transformation.

The embryogeny of *Lamellaria* takes considerable time for its accomplishment (two or three weeks). The larvæ break down with great rapidity when they are removed from the mucus which bathes them. Nitric acid has been of great service to me in these delicate researches.

XVI.—*Description of a very large Species of Scotophilus from Western Africa.* By G. E. DOBSON, M.A., M.B.

*Scotophilus gigas*, n. sp.

Ear-conch and tragus like those of *S. borbonicus*, Geoffr.; but the internal basal lobe of the ear is more rounded and its inferior horizontal margin is straight, not in the least degree concave; the upper third of the outer margin of the conch is slightly but distinctly concave; and the tragus has the narrow ridge, proceeding from the base of its inner margin across its front margin, as well developed as in *S. Temminckii*.

Wings to the metatarsus near the base of the toes; last two caudal vertebræ and half the third last vertebra free.

Fur above deep chestnut, beneath yellowish white. The fur on the upper surface is short and does not extend anywhere upon the membranes, terminating by a well-defined line, and not extending posteriorly as far as the root of the tail; beneath, the wing-membrane is thinly covered as far as a line drawn from the elbow to the knee-joint, and a band of fur passes outwards, posterior to the forearm, to the carpus, as in *Vesperugo noctula*. The face in front of the eyes is nearly naked.

Upper incisors with a posterior horizontal expansion of the cingulum, as in *S. borbonicus*; lower incisors crowded. The other teeth as in *S. Temminckii*.

Length (of an adult female preserved in alcohol), head and body 4·6 inches, tail 3·6, tail free from membrane 0·35,

head 1·45, ear 0·9, tragus 0·45 × 0·1, forearm 3·4, thumb 0·7, second finger 5·75, fourth finger 4·15, tibia 1·4, foot and claws 0·75.

This is by far the largest species of the family Vespertilionidæ yet described, its forearm exceeding that of *Vesperugo molossus* (hitherto known as the largest species) by half an inch, and exceeding by quite one inch the forearm of the largest species of *Scotophilus*.

*Hab.* Lagos, west coast of Africa. Type in the collection of the British Museum.

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XVII.—*Gigantic Squid on the West Coast of Ireland.* By A. G. MORE, Assistant Naturalist in the Museum of the Royal Dublin Society.

SEVERAL accounts having lately appeared in print respecting a very large cuttlefish which was lately captured off Boffin Island, Connemara, I have to offer a few notes made on those portions of the animal which fortunately were preserved by the care of Sergeant O'Connor, and by him forwarded to the Museum in Dublin.

This giant cuttle or squid was caught on the 25th of April by the crew of a "corragh," a slight narrow rowing-boat constructed of hoops and tarred canvas, such as is much used for line-fishing on the west coast of Ireland. The animal was found basking on the surface of the sea, and was attacked by the fishermen, who could not bear to think that so much good bait should be lost. Not until after a laborious chase and some danger, the arms were one by one dissevered, and at last the head. The body, being too unwieldy, was allowed to sink.

From the portions thus brought ashore, Sergeant O'Connor, being much interested in matters relating to fishing-operations and natural history, preserved what he could; and, in this instance, but for his care the whole prize might have been converted into bait for long-lines. A good part of both tentacles, one short arm, and the great beak entire, with some of the surrounding flesh attached, have reached Dublin; and there remains very little doubt that we have now to deal with a second example of the famous *Architeuthis dux* of Steenstrup. So little is known of the original specimen, and so imperfect are the fragments now obtained, that the identification must for the present remain incomplete. Enough, however, remains